

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

SUBJECT Reaction of Farmer Group to National Loan

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Yugoslav national loan was given support by the people under the strain of psychological pressure applied by the regime. Government employees could not even consider refusing a contribution or subscribing less than was expected of them by their office manager. Communists made the largest contributions inasmuch as the majority of them are directors of institutions or offices. Twenty percent of the pledged sum had to be paid immediately, and the remainder is to be paid up in five months.
2. Numerous cases of refusal to subscribe to the national loan took place. One of these cases that was characteristic follows. In the village of Ovciste, in the Plenac District, a number of propagandists put in an appearance to induce the population to subscribe to the loan. After they had spoken, a farmer by the name of Petrovic requested permission to take the stand. Petrovic declared that the drought had filled the farmers with fear of the oncoming winter months while, in these most difficult circumstances, the government saw fit to solicit a loan. He stated that in other times of plight the government had given assistance to the people, whereas now the state was requesting contributions when it was known that the people could not spare a dinar.
3. The crowd of farmers that had gathered applauded the statements made by Petrovic and the government propagandists had to leave town. On the following day, Petrovic was summoned by the District People's Committee in Topola and was interned for four days.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2008

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